



Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## Newsletter Number 3 – Summer Term 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

### **Road Safety**

As things return to a more 'normal' state and the weather improves, the roads are getting busier and our children's safety is our priority. There is a national campaign by Brake's to focus on this:

[https://www.brake.org.uk/get-involved/for-professionals/teachers-and-youth-workers/brake-s-kids-walk?mc\\_cid=21d005c585&mc\\_eid=fe2cbda80c](https://www.brake.org.uk/get-involved/for-professionals/teachers-and-youth-workers/brake-s-kids-walk?mc_cid=21d005c585&mc_eid=fe2cbda80c)

The statistics they quote are quite alarming:

*Everyone has the right to walk safely in their community*

*It is every child's right to be able to walk in their community without fear of traffic and pollution. Danger from traffic is a big factor in whether families are able to walk safely in the places where they live. It affects their ability to be healthy and socially active.*

*Children of all ages are at risk of being hurt or killed when walking near roads. On average, six children are killed or seriously injured on roads in Britain every day – that's equivalent to a whole class of children every single week.*

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June is their main campaign day when they are encouraging everyone to walk to school. We would like our children to join in with this too. On Wednesday 16 June 2021, thousands of schoolchildren aged 4–11 will take part in Brake's Kids Walk – a short, supervised walk to promote important road safety messages. Children walk in pairs in crocodile formation, while holding hands, to emphasise the importance of being able to walk without fear or threat from traffic. More information will be sent to you about this day nearer the time.



***Class bingo and games*** – A reminder that this event is on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May directly after school, finishing at 6pm. The price will be £5, for the children to enjoy a night of bingo, with prizes available for all classes; there will also be hotdogs and chips supplied, plus an ice lolly. The final date to book your child's place is **Friday 14th May at 10am. NO PLACES CAN BE BOOKED AFTER THIS DATE!!!**

***End of week Ice Lolly treat!*** – The first ice lolly treat day is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May. On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May you will be able to order and pay for the ice lollies through Parent Mail. Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 10am will be the cut off for ordering lollies for that week. There can be no exceptions to this cut off. The same system will then run weekly with each Monday being ordering day and Tuesday at 10am being the cut off for orders. At the end of the day on a Friday, your child will be handed their ordered lolly as they leave school for the day.

### ***Parent Governor Posts***

Another reminder that we have 3 parent governor posts that will be available shortly. This is due to some restructuring of the governing body. The role of the parent governor is often misunderstood so here at Pensby, our Governors will take the time to speak to you about this and be clear about our expectations and the amount of work and time you would be committing to the school – yes it is time consuming and all governors are expected to contribute quite a lot!

This role contributes to the work of the governing body in raising standards of achievement for all pupils. You would be contributing to providing strategic direction for the school. At times you will need to offer sensitive challenge to ensure a progressive improvement in standards across the school. Governors are accountable for the strategic direction and the performance of the school. Therefore they have a responsibility to work collaboratively with other members of the governing body, the staff and pupils of the school, the school's wider community and, where they are representatives to their particular constituency, (parents, staff, teachers, etc.) Although some governors may represent particular constituencies, they are not delegates of that group and should reflect the best interests of the school as a whole in all decisions. Governors carry accountability to the public and should expect to be scrutinised. They are expected to act with objectivity and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias. They should act with openness, honesty and at all times show integrity in everything they do.

The role includes:

- Attending four whole governing body meetings per annum (two in the autumn term and one per term) and termly meetings of subcommittees. In addition, other subcommittees and meetings as required noting that some of these meetings will be evenings
- Prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand and take their fair share of work/positions of responsibility
- Get to know the school: its needs, strengths and areas for development
- Work as a member of a team
- Speak, act and vote in the best interests of the school as one perceives them
- Represent the perspectives of constituencies, where appropriate
- Respect all governing body decisions and to support them in public
- Become familiar with the rules of school governance
- Act within the framework of the policies of the governing body and legal requirements
- Take responsibility for and participate in training and development opportunities appropriate
- Follow guidance from the Department for Education (DFE) which suggests commitment will be between ten to twenty days maximum per year

If you are interested in the role, you could spend some time considering this by looking at the following information:

<https://www.nga.org.uk/Governance-Recruitment/Be-a-school-governor-or-trustee.aspx>

<https://schoolgovernors.thekeysupport.com/the-governing-body/constitution-and-membership/governing-body-constitution/parent-governor-trustee-roles-and-responsibilities/>

<https://www.parentkind.org.uk/Parents/Have-a-say-as-a-parent-governor>

If you do decide that you would like to be nominated for the role of a school governor, you will need to prepare a written statement of no more than 200 words to let the school community know all about you. You will also need to be nominated for the role. All this needs to be done using the Pensa Parent Governor Nomination form which is under this newsletter. The forms must be returned fully completed to the School Office by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 12.00pm. No nominations will be accepted after this time. Further information about elections for the roles will then be emailed to families in the week of 18<sup>th</sup> May.

### ***Coast 2 County 2021***

Many of you will remember the Deeside schools Coast 2 County event that we held in 2019. This was such a huge success and we were asked to talk to schools all over the North West about this and how we put it all together. Deeside schools had planned this again for 2020 but of course COVID stopped that!

So 2021 sees the return of a smaller but none the less, important Coast 2 Country event for all 19 Deeside schools. **This year it will launch the week of the 7th June with a week of exciting activities linked to this year's theme:**

- Have you noticed?
- Are you bothered?
- It's not that far!

It may be nice to take a look at what the 19 schools did in 2021 by watching the end of project video and reading more information following this link:

<https://media.hi-impact.co.uk/coast-2-country/>

Activities planned this year include an art focus of a piece of artwork to be created by each child, something in the format similar to that of a postcard. This will hopefully be installed on a plinth in the Williamson Art Gallery with all the work from Deeside schools. There will a Deeside litter pick once again. Each class will be daily tweeting so the whole community can see what they are doing. Each class will conduct their own class 'Outdoor Classroom Day' to coincide with the week's events. Each school will create a memorial gate so the community can reflect on losses as a result of Covid in a positive and beautiful way. A map will be shared throughout the various school communities so families can walk the routes of each of the gates. Local communities will be encouraged to 'light the routes' with lights in their windows and gardens. Finally – there are lots of curriculum links that will be made.

### ***Every Mind matters***

Public Health England's Every Mind Matters website has a variety of resources to help support Mental Health Awareness Week.

It includes simple practical tips and videos about dealing with COVID-19, stress and anxiety, boosting your mood, sleeping better and what you can do to help others. It also includes a self-care section for young people filled with interactive resources. You can access this site and resources by clicking <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/>

We know what an impact the pandemic has had on our young people, so it is more important than ever that they know help is available. Young People can find out more about various support services at [nhs.uk/CYPmentalhealth](https://www.nhs.uk/CYPmentalhealth)

### **PTA meeting tonight**

We have a PTA meeting through Zoom to discuss upcoming events at 7.00pm tonight. Please do join us if you can:

Topic: PTA meeting

Time: May 11, 2021 07:00 PM

Meeting ID: 826 2195 5869

Passcode: 607715

### **School photographs**

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May, the photographer will be in school. During the school day individual and sibling photographs will be taken. If you have a pre school child you will be able to book a slot for all the children in your family to have their photograph taken together, prior to the start of school. Details of how to book this will be sent out nearer the time.

### **Updated Coronavirus guidance**

Following the recent announcement by the Prime Minister, some of the COVID guidance for schools has been updated. However, all the protective measures we have seen throughout COVID remain in place including the need to minimise group sizes through bubbles and handwashing and visitors to the site wearing a face covering.

One change is that face coverings will no longer be recommended for pupils in classrooms or communal areas in all schools. However, some of our children ask to wear face coverings in certain situations and we will continue to listen to them and allow them to do this on request.

*And finally,*

Just thinking ahead to next academic year! We have had 2 'interrupted years' due to the COVID pandemic so keeping staffing as stable as possible for the next academic year is essential for staff, children and families alike. Therefore, the teaching staff will remain as they are with one exception. Mrs Sibthorp will be retiring at the end of the term. What an amazing career she has had and we will miss her very much. Mrs Williams will move into Nursery as our Nursery teacher.



Mrs K Brown - Headteacher